



# **SOUTH PORT NZ LTD**

## **2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Chief Executive's Address – Nigel Gear**

Thanks Rex, Tēnā koutou katoa,

This morning following on from the Chair, I will focus on Safety, Health and Wellbeing including our response to Covid-19. What's happening in the infrastructure space, rounding it out with our people and our community.

Our values underpin everything we do at the Port. They are a key part of our strategic framework, our daily communications and our decision-making processes.

The most important of these values is safety first. Ports by nature are hazardous environments. We deal with large machinery on a daily basis, cranes, forklifts, trucks, loaders, diggers and vessels. Of note we recorded 260,336 inward traffic movements through the gate over the last FY, which is a significant amount of traffic.

It important therefore, that we have good systems to manage traffic flows, pedestrians and that we continue to invest in systems and plant to promote better safety around the Port.

Critical risks are an important focus for the port industry.

A Port Health and Safety Leadership Group has been established, which includes the ports, stevedoring companies, port industry association, unions and the regulators – Maritime New Zealand and WorkSafe. This group has been specifically formed to focus on reducing harm in the workplace and focusing on critical risks. The two major pieces of work currently being undertaken are related to person versus plant and Fatigue.

Ports put a lot of effort into this space, however with two fatalities recorded over the last 12 months it's important that we work collectively for the betterment of all people working in the industry.

There was a significant amount of work undertaken in relation to Covid-19 over the previous financial year. Vaccination policies, departmental risk assessments, on site vaccinations and booster shots made available, rapid antigen surveillance testing and works teams created to reduce transmission on site. It was very pleasing that when community transmission was in full swing there was little impact on the South Port operations due to the measures undertaken. I would like to make special mention of the staff during this time. It was not always an easy process to be involved in, however the team got on with the job and I would like to thank them for their patience and efforts.

The Port has a number of infrastructure projects currently underway or recently that we have completed.

Shed No. 6 located adjacent to the container terminal was recently demolished to make way for additional container storage and a repair area. This additional space is much needed as there have been a number of times where there has been insufficient room to store export containers, especially during the peak season. It has also seen a marked improvement for the container repair function at the Port. This development has allowed the Port to separate the container repairs from all of the other remaining container terminal functions reducing the risk profiles of both activities.

The paving of the South Rail log storage area was recently completed and opened for use. The completion of this 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> area will help to improve the safety of the log marshalling operation, increase utilisation, provide better environmental outcomes and protect market eligibility of the logs. Our thanks go out to the log exporters that supported this long-term development at the Port.

Since 2019 we have been on a journey to repair the access bridge installing Impressed Current Cathodic Protection (or ICCP) to each of the 14 bays. It is pleasing to say that we only have one bay left to complete, which will be done in the 2023 financial year. As mentioned previously the life span of the ICCP equipment being installed on the bridge is expected to last for 25 to 30 years.

The upgrade of the town wharf fuel berth, accessway, pipeline corridor and discharge platform was completed this calendar year. This development has been constructed to IL3 seismic rating and has a life expectancy of a minimum of 50 years.

This project was on the books for a number of years, however the end result has been very pleasing for both the Port and the infrastructure team winning both regional and national construction awards.

The Port has made a conscious effort to work more closely with the community in recent years. One of the ways we communicate with the community is through a newsletter called Mai I Te Wāpu or from the wharf. This newsletter is prepared biannually and is delivered around Bluff by staff members, the content basically discussing what is currently happening at the Port. The leadership team also meets with both the community Board and Awarua Rūnaka during the year to discuss similar topics around the Port and plans moving forward that the community should be aware of.

A recent survey was carried out to gauge whether our engagement in the community is effective and where we can make improvements. There was an excellent response to this survey and we were very pleased with the feedback, taking on the recommendations on how we can improve.

Our relationship with the Rūnaka is very important to the Port. We have consulted with the Rūnaka on a number of areas in the past, whether it be for resource consents, assisting with the naming of both the Port (Te Pūkorokoro o Murihiku), the new tug (Rakiwai) and also the gifting of our logo. A long-awaited gifting ceremony was held this year at the Te Rau Aroha Marae which was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.

The Port continues to provide scholarships, sponsor sporting organisations / community groups and provide gifts / donations for worthy local causes.

When the opportunity is available to the Port and we have the capacity, staff work on community projects, with one day being set aside every year for each employee to carry out this work.

To finish off, I would like to once again make a brief comment about our people. As you are all aware it has been an interesting few years operating on the border with a global pandemic. Through all of the challenges thrown our way the staff have continued to operate to a high standard, complete a number of projects and I very proud of the effort they have put in.

Thank you.